



La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council  
**Pre-Kindergarten Scholarships**

Research shows that children who attend quality early childhood education programs have better math, language and social skills, and are more likely to graduate high school and go to college.

The need for more early learning opportunities for young children in the La Paz/Mohave Region is well documented. The 2012 Regional Needs and Assets Report identified insufficient early educational settings as a recurrent theme through-out the region. The conclusion stated, "With high unemployment and poverty rates in the region, quality early childhood education is out of reach of many families." Additionally, stakeholders responding to the region's 2011 Strategic Planning Survey identified preschool programs as one of the most important services missing in the region.

Expanding pre-kindergarten programs for three and four-year-old children is a strategy that has significantly built the capacity in the region to provide high quality early learning experiences, especially in rural communities where access to early childhood education is severely limited. Through partnerships with local school districts, the regional council provides early learning opportunities for 228 children who would not otherwise have them. Districts offer either full-day or part-day programs. As of September 2012, agreements are in place with seven school districts. These include:

<b>Littlefield Unified School District</b> \$118,800	Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	1
	Number of partner pre-K sites receiving support	0
	Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	<b>40</b>
<b>Topock Elementary School District</b> \$132,000	Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	1
	Number of partner pre-K sites receiving support	0
	Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	<b>20</b>
<b>Mohave Valley Elementary School District</b> \$140,400	Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	1
	Number of partner pre-K sites receiving support	1
	Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	<b>20</b>
<b>Bullhead City Elementary School District</b> \$156,000	Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	1
	Number of partner pre-K sites receiving support	1
	Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	<b>43</b>
<b>Kingman Unified School District</b> \$162,000	Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	1
	Number of partner pre-K sites receiving support	1
	Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	<b>50</b>
<b>Lake Havasu Unified School District</b> \$140,400	Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	2
	Number of partner pre-K sites receiving support	3
	Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	<b>45</b>
<b>Bouse Unified School District</b> \$79,200	Number of public school pre-k sites receiving support	1
	Number of partner pre-K sites receiving support	0
	Number of FTF-funded pre-K children	<b>10</b>

**\$928,800 – TOTAL AMOUNT UNDER CONTRACT**

**TARGET SERVICE NUMBER – 228**



### Proposed New Agreement for SFY 2013

The La Paz/Mohave Regional Partnership Council Pre-Kindergarten Scholarship Strategy increases the number preschool slots for children in communities where known shortages exist. The approved SFY 2013 Regional Funding Plan includes sufficient funds to expand the strategy to serve an additional under-served community, as well as to continue serving the town of Quartzsite, which was previously served through an agreement with the E.Q. Scholars Academy, however, the program closed June 30, 2012 when the school lost its charter.

A new agreement is being proposed with the State of Arizona Department of Education (ADE) to serve an additional 40 children – 20 in Salome and 20 in Quartzsite. If approved, the new agreement for SFY 2013 would allow preschool services in Quartzsite to continue with the new charter holder, and expand the strategy to also serve Salome. It would bring the total number of children served by the strategy from 228 to 268 and total funding awarded for the strategy from \$928,800 to \$1,090,600.

Grantee	Strategy Summary	Agreement
The State of Arizona Department of Education	<p>Pre-Kindergarten start-up/expansion is a strategy that is administered through a statewide agreement with the State of Arizona Department of Education.</p> <p>This expansion of the region's pre-kindergarten scholarship strategy will allow two additional communities in La Paz County to be served. It will make preschool available to an additional 40 children – 20 in Salome, and 20 in Quartzsite.</p> <p>Strategy components include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coaching and technical assistance provided by mentors to help plan a new classroom or program site;</li> <li>• Licensing and certification fees;</li> <li>• Facility improvement grants to equip a new setting, renovate and expand an existing site;</li> <li>• Capital improvement or construction (the FTF capital improvement policy must be followed and requires matching funds);</li> <li>• Personnel to plan and assist with the start-up and enrollment of children;</li> <li>• Pre-Kindergarten scholarships once licensing is complete.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Type:</b> Government to Government Agreement (amendment to an existing statewide contract)</p> <p><b>Funding Amount:</b> \$161,800</p> <p><b>Service Numbers:</b> 40 children (full-day) 2 public school sites no community-based partners (there are no private child care providers in these school districts)</p> <p><b>Period:</b> January 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013 (6 months)</p>